

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Zeon** (EP 1,291,386) in view of **Nakamura** (US 6,815,488), **McCullough** (US 6,015,854) or **Grasmeder** (US 5,731,376).

Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action acknowledges that Zeon does not disclose that the resin composition includes a mold releasing agent and does not disclose the relationship of solubility parameters between the vinyl alicyclic hydrocarbon polymer and a releasing agent. (Office Action, page 2.) The Office Action takes the position that adding a releasing agent would have been obvious based on the disclosures of Nakamura, McCullough or Grasmeder. (Office Action, pages 2-3.) The Office Action further takes the position that the relationship of solubility parameters between the alicyclic structure-containing polymer and the releasing agent is either inherent or obvious in the absence of evidence of unexpected results commensurate in scope with the claims. (Office Action, page 3.)

Applicants respectfully submit that Zeon in view of Nakamura, McCullough, or Grasmeder do not teach or suggest the relationship of solubility parameters between the alicyclic structure-containing polymer and the releasing agent as recited in claim 1, and that this feature is neither inherent in the cited references nor obvious over the cited references. To support that this

feature is neither inherent nor obvious, Applicants submit that the Examples and Comparative Examples in the present specification demonstrate the criticality of the recited relationship of the solubility parameters and the unexpectedly improved results of resin compositions satisfying the recited relationship of the solubility parameters.

The specification points out that in the Comparative Examples, where the solubility parameters do not satisfy the relationship as recited in claim 1, the resin composition has poor releasability, poor transparence and colorless property, and poor resistance to laser. (Specification, pages 37-38.)

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-7 are patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 is hereby solicited.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No.: 10/587,393
Art Unit: 1796

Response under 37 CFR §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 062751

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Melick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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